

NSSO survey on child labour

983. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI C. RAMCHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to NSSO survey, more than 16 Million children are engaged as child labour in the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government have any plans or approach to end the problem of child labour; and
- (c) whether Government are considering more National Child Labour Projects for rescued child workers and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) According to NSSO survey 1999-2000, the magnitude of child labour was 10.40 million.

(b) and (c) Government is committed to the goal of elimination of child labour in all its forms beginning with children working in hazardous occupations/processes. Government is implementing the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) in 250 districts of 20 States in the country. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from work are put into the Special Schools where these children are provided basic education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care in order to prepare them to be mainstreamed into formal schooling system.

Strike in jute mills in West Bengal

984. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received a joint memorandum from Central trade unions to intervene into the ongoing strike in jute mills of West Bengal; and
- (b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Strike in Jute mills falls in the State sphere. In this case State Government of West Bengal is the appropriate Government and, therefore, legally vested with the powers to intervene in the matter. Government of West Bengal have informed that they have received the joint memorandum from Central trade unions to intervene into the ongoing strike in jute mills of West Bengal. The State Government is very much concerned on the prolonged strike in jute industry and is vigorously striving to come to a solution. Nine joint conferences and several separate discussions have been held. Tripartite negotiations are still going on. Minister of State (IC) for Labour & Employment had also called a meeting of the representatives of the Central Trade Unions, local trade unions of West Bengal, Jute Mill Owners, Officers of the West Bengal Government and Ministry of Textiles on 14.02.07 but the dispute could not be resolved.

Rising unemployment in the country

985. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that unemployment in the country is rising at nine percent per annum, with employment opportunities dipping correspondingly;
- (b) if so, the details for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether over 52 lakh graduates are in the waitlist for employment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof with employment generated and given over the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (e) whether unemployment allowance is given for unemployed youth; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made by the Centre to enhance employment opportunities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.